GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:929
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2006
LIGHTENING THUNDERS
Dhanaraju Dr. K.;Mehta Shri Alok Kumar

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons died due to lightening thunders during 2005-06, till date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government has conducted any study to inquire into the reasons and also to protect the people from the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) The event of `lightning thunders` has not been included, by the Twelfth Finance Commission, in the list of natural calamities eligible for assistance under the relief Schemes of Calamity Relief Fund and National Calamity Contingency Fund. Therefore, the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs is not maintaining information specific to the lightning thunders. The concerned State Governments, may provide relief to the people who are affected by these events.

(b) to (d): According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), lightning is associated with thunderstorm activity, which is more frequent during the months from April to June, particularly in tropical areas of the country. However, a lightning strike is a relatively infrequent phenomenon, wherein a heavy surge of electric current originating from the clouds passes through an object into the ground. As a measure of protection tall buildings are artificial structures are equipped with lightning arrestors. No separate study has been conducted by the IMD to enquire into the reasons for the occurrence of lightning. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also not conducted any such study.